

APPROVED 7.8.2017

For: Undercover Police Inquiry
By: MPS Designated Lawyer
Statement of witness: N23

Dated: 07.08.2017

**RE: PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO UNDERCOVER POLICING
IMPACT STATEMENT OF HN23**

1. I understand that the MPS will make an application for a restriction order in respect of my real name and cover name. I support those applications. However, at the time of drafting this statement, I have not seen the detail of those applications.
2. A risk assessment has been conducted by the MPS in relation to the risks to me and others in respect of the Inquiry's decision about whether a restriction order should be made. [REDACTED] In August, I met with the risk assessor, and saw a draft of this document although my lawyers have not yet seen it. I agree with the contents of that assessment (subject to the minor amendments that I talked through) and support it.
3. I am particularly concerned about my physical safety should my name be revealed, including the release of my cover name in light of the circumstances set out in this statement.

SDS Deployment

4. I was deployed with the SDS from [REDACTED] as an undercover officer [REDACTED]

5. [REDACTED]

6. I was already working in Special Branch when I was approached about the possibility of working in the SDS. Until I was approached, I did not know about the unit as it was very secret and nobody discussed the work that was done. It was very clear to me when joining that it was expected that I kept confidential the detail of the work that I did, my cover name, and that my identity would not be revealed. The whole set up of the unit led to this understanding including the [REDACTED] meetings which were the only times you could talk with others in your position about the work that you were doing.

7. My cover name was [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I understood that the name used and the work done would be kept confidential.

8. *Gist: details of deployment which would identify officer* [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

9. [REDACTED]

10. [REDACTED]
Gist: details limited extent family knew about my work

11. [REDACTED]

12. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

13. Apart from those who were assisting with my cover identity, no one was aware of my cover name, and apart from the limited detail that the close family referred to above knew, I have not revealed to anybody the work that I did. I have kept this confidential throughout and after the end of my career and expected that the Met would do the same.

14. I do not believe that my cover name has been compromised either during or subsequent to my deployment. [REDACTED]

15. I am very proud of the work that I did and acted with integrity throughout my career. I believe that the work that I did had a significant positive impact and I did it knowing that it was not something I could boast about or reveal. As a consequence of the role, I have obviously had to lie to friends and family about the work that I have done (or at least not be able to tell them what I have done). I am worried that they will not understand the reasons for this and will see it as a betrayal which will affect both friendships and relationships with family. Had I believed that there was a risk of my identity becoming known, I would not have taken on the role.

16. [REDACTED]

Career

17. After being in the SDS, I was [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I did not discuss the work that I had done later in my career.

18. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I am concerned that if my involvement in the SDS becomes public knowledge that my family [REDACTED] would be at risk, and that I may not be able to carry on [REDACTED].

Housing

19. [REDACTED]

[Redacted]

20.

[Redacted]

21.

[Redacted]

Gist: sets out potential or near miss compromise post deployment and effect on officer.

Family / Third Party

22. *Gist: Details of impact on officer and partner if restriction not granted.*

[Redacted]

23.

[Redacted]

24.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

25. [Redacted]

26. [Redacted]

27. *Gist: Details of family who knew about undercover work not SDS work* [Redacted]

28. [Redacted]

29. *Gist: details of impact on family life if restriction not granted* [Redacted]

30. [Redacted]

Social Media

31. I am not on any form of social media and have actively avoided being on it as a consequence of my role within the SDS. [Redacted]

[REDACTED] However, it is a fine balance in doing this and I am unable to prevent any photograph being put online or potentially leading back to my family and me.

Sexual Relationships

32. I did not have any sexual relationships while I was deployed.

Health

33. I am in good health both physically and mentally. However, I have found myself becoming anxious when dealing with the public inquiry and it is affecting me. Whilst I appreciate that the public inquiry needs to look into the SDS, it is personally difficult to deal with. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

34. [REDACTED]

Conclusion

35. I carried out the work I was tasked to do with integrity and in a professional manner and on the understanding that the work I was doing was intelligence gathering and would be kept confidential as would my identity. I believe that there is a significant risk to myself, my *family* [REDACTED] / others who assisted in my deployment should my identity (or my cover identity) be revealed.

36. The thing that worries me the most is my identity being revealed, or the press turning up on my doorstep or that of my family. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I remain concerned that the revelation in public of any details of my deployment including my cover name would be very damaging to me and give risk to significant physical risk and impact on my private and family life. If I was required to discuss any of the details of my deployment in public, this is likely to lead to the revelation of my cover name [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Given [REDACTED] I believe that I would be easily identifiable if any details were put in the public domain. I understand that the risk assessment supports the above concerns.

37. [REDACTED]

38. I would therefore ask that the Inquiry agree to restrict my real name and my cover name and take steps to restrict my identity to ensure that I am not placed at risk.

[REDACTED] Given [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I believe the revelation that there was an undercover officer in

those groups would lead to my identification. If I am asked to give evidence in due course, I would ask that I be allowed to do so in private.

Approved on 7.8.2017 (unable to sign due to no printer)